

**HALEY, CURTIS BRABSON  
(1872-1951)  
PAPERS  
1888-1951**

*Processed by:*

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## **INTRODUCTION**

This finding aid focuses on the papers of Curtis Brabson Haley, book editor for the Methodist Publishing House in Nashville, Tennessee. Spanning the years 1888-1951, the papers contain much correspondence between Haley and other family members as well as business letters relating to his work as book editor and treasurer of the Methodist Benevolent Association. The collection also includes fragmented diaries of Dr. Haley. Other items within the collection include documents relating to the Fleet of the Sailors, a fraternity for insurance men, and the Methodist Benevolent Association.

The papers of Dr. Haley were donated by his daughter-in-law, Mrs. Curtis B. Haley, Jr. The unprocessed materials had been stored for many years in conditions which lacked humidity and temperature control prior to their donation to the Tennessee State Library and Archives.

The processed collection measures approximately seven and one-half cubic feet, excluding a small box of photographs housed in the vault of the State Library and Archives. There are no restrictions on the material. Single photocopies of unpublished materials in the Haley Papers may be made for individual or scholarly research.

## SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

The Curtis Brabson Haley Papers containing approximately 1100 items, span the period 1888-1951. The collection is composed of account books, announcements, associations, institutions, etc., certificates, clippings, correspondence, diaries, memoirs, etc., estate papers, financial records, genealogical data, land records, legal documents, McKendree Methodist Church records, obituaries, pictorial post cards, programs, school records, tours, and several miscellaneous items.

A major portion of the collection consists of correspondence, which is separated into two groups, family and general. General correspondence generally consists of business letters relating to Haley's work as book editor at the Methodist Publishing House, and as treasurer of the Methodist Benevolent Association. One prominent correspondent is Herbert Hoover, who writes a letter of appreciation in response to Haley's congratulatory message after the former's election to the presidency in 1928 (see Box 11, Folder 4).

Financial records relate to the Lawrence M. Hirsig and Co., in Nashville, Tennessee. Mr. Hirsig was a brother-in-law of Mrs. Maude McBryde Haley, the wife of Dr. Haley.

Genealogical information in the collection may be found for the following families: Branson, Haley, McBryde, and Shields.

Records for the McKendree Methodist Church include history, minutes, reports, resolutions, and trust funds for the period 1929-1946. There is a large assortment of pictorial post cards in the collection of points of interest in the United States and foreign countries visited by Dr. Haley and his correspondents.

An interesting portion of the collection are the documents found in Dr. Haley's tour of the Holy Land and western European countries in 1935. Traveling to the Mediterranean areas on the Italian line, "Conte Di Savoia," and returning on the "Rex," there may be found itineraries, a ship deck plan diagram, programs and menus, and most important, extensive notes by Dr. Haley on his travels and observation (see Box 15, Folder 20 and Box 17, Folder 3).

Among the oversize materials is a photograph featuring the founders and pioneers of Methodism in America.

The Curtis B. Haley Papers provide information on Methodism in Nashville, Tennessee, in the early half of the twentieth century through the work and observation of one of its literary editors.

## BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

### Curtis Brabson Haley

- 1872        September 11, born at Marietta, Georgia, the son of Dr. James F. and Priscilla Shields Haley.
- 1892        June, graduated from the State Normal School at Jacksonville, Alabama.
- 1893        February 15, began work at the Methodist Publishing House as a printer and worked successively as linotype operator, foreman of the *Christian Advocate*, general proof reader, and chief proof reader.
- 1900        December 19, married Mary Wheeler Flippen, who died March 4, 1902.
- 1905        October, married Maude McBryde of Nashville.
- 1919-1941    Assistant to the book editor and editor of the *Quarterly Review*.
- 1926-        Treasurer of the Methodist Benevolent Association.
- 1951        April 23, died in Brentwood, Tennessee, and interred in Mt. Olivet Cemetery, Nashville, Tennessee.

#### Honors and Organizations

Honorary Doctor of Letters degree from Birmingham Southern College.

Bronze medal from National Council of Boy Scouts for helping save three boys from drowning in Cumberland River.

First scoutmaster in Nashville and served for 24 years as master of Nashville Troop 1.

Boy Scout Silver Beaver Medal for “distinguished service to boyhood.”

Helped organize the Fleet of Sailors, a fraternity for insurance men, and served as Chief Supercargo for 38 years.

Sources:    Curtis B. Haley Papers  
              Nashville *Banner*, April 23, 1951  
              Nashville *Tennessean*, April 24, 1951

## CONTAINER LIST

### **BOX NUMBER 1**

1. Minute books—Curtis B. Haley, 1916-1928
2. Minute books—McKendree Church—Trust Fund, 1942-1948
3. Address book—Curtis B. Haley
4. Announcements? marriage—Mary Wheeler Flippen and Curtis Brabson Haley, 1900
5. Announcements? marriage—Maude Miller McBryde and Curtis Brabson Haley, 1905
6. Announcements? marriage—Doris Alice Leiston and James R. Haley, 1945
7. Announcements? marriage—Mrs. Constance Carter Wilkes and Lawrence McBryde Hirsig, 1935
8. Announcements? wedding anniversary—Mr. and Mrs. R. P. McBryde, 1935
9. Announcements? wedding anniversary—Mr. and Mrs. John Brabson Shields, 1916
10. Associations, institutions, etc.—Commission on Records, Forms, and Statistical Blanks
11. Associations, institutions, etc.—the Fleet of Sailors—Curtis B. Haley
12. Associations, institutions, etc.—Methodist Benevolent Association, 1912-1945
13. Broadside—Formal Opening of Haley Highway, September 6, 1926
14. Cards—membership—Y.M.C.A.—Curtis b. Haley, 1936-1938
15. Cemeteries—Mt. Olivet (Nashville, TN)—monuments—Curtis B. Haley, 1938-1939
16. Certificates—Social Insurance Award—Curtis B. Haley, June 11, 1945
17. Certificates—Sunday School—C. B. Haley, 1903, 1904
18. Certificates—Teacher's—Mrs. Elizabeth Haley Moore, 1915, 1924
19. Certificates—Voter registration—Curtis B. Haley, 1896, 1901
20. Church records—Sunday School—Curtis and Maude Haley, 1906-1907
21. Clippings—Curtis B. Haley
22. Clippings—Curtis B. Haley, Jr.
23. Clippings—Maude McBryde Haley
24. Clippings—Pearl Haley
25. Clippings—Constance (Carter) Wilkes Hirsig
26. Clippings—Lawrence Hirsig
27. Clippings—W. G. Hirsig
28. Clippings—J. Alex Moore
29. Clippings—Maude (Haley) Moore
30. Clippings—Maude (Shields) Rosamond
31. Clippings—Mary (Haley) Waits
32. Correspondence—Family—Vaughtie and Frank Alexander
33. Correspondence—Family—Fanny Yancy Barnes
34. Correspondence—Family—R. Shields Carroll
35. Correspondence—Family—Elizabeth Dozzer
36. Correspondence—Family—Curtis B. and Maude ("Maizie") McBryde Haley

## **BOX NUMBER 2**

### **Correspondence--Family**

1. C. Brabson Haley, Jr.
2. Foster Haley
3. Francilla Haley
4. Grace Elizabeth Haley
5. John David Haley
6. John F. Haley
7. Lawrence Haley
8. Mildred Haley

## **BOX NUMBER 3**

### **Correspondence--Family**

1. Paul and Grace Haley, 1895-1909
2. Paul and Grace Haley, 1910-1925
3. Paul and Grace Haley, 1926-1946
4. Pearl Haley

## **BOX NUMBER 4**

### **Correspondence--Family**

1. Priscella Shields Haley, n. d.
2. Priscella Shields Haley, 1894-1908
3. Priscella Shields Haley, 1909-1910
4. Priscella Shields Haley, 1911-1916

## **BOX NUMBER 5**

### **Correspondence--Family**

1. Priscella Shields Haley, 1917-1919
2. Priscella Shields Haley, 1922-1934
3. Robert Gentry Haley, 1935-1945
4. W. Banks Haley, 1935-1942
5. H. Hirsig, 1937
6. Charles Hirsig, 1937, 1944
7. James Hirsig, 1908
8. Josephine McBryde Hirsig, 1905, 1931, 1944
9. Lawrence and Constance Hirsig, 1917-1946
10. Louis Hirsig, 1931-1937
11. Robin Hirsig, 1932
12. Elizabeth McBryde, 1919, 1942
13. Richard and Mary McBryde, 1934-1940

## **BOX NUMBER 6**

### **Correspondence--Family**

1. Elizabeth ("Bessie") Maude Haley Moore, 1893-1900
2. Elizabeth ("Bessie") Maude Haley Moore, 1901-1910
3. Elizabeth ("Bessie") Maude Haley Moore, 1911-1920

## **BOX NUMBER 7**

### **Correspondence--Family**

1. Elizabeth ("Bessie") Maude Haley Moore, 1921-1927
2. Elizabeth ("Bessie") Maude Haley Moore, 1928-1933

## **BOX NUMBER 8**

### **Correspondence--Family**

1. Elizabeth ("Bessie") Maude Haley Moore, 1934-1937
2. Elizabeth ("Bessie") Maude Haley Moore, 1938-1944
3. J. Alexander Moore, 1909-1943

## **BOX NUMBER 9**

### **Correspondence--Family**

1. Maude and F. K. Rosamond, 1938-1946
2. David E. Shields, 1904-1939
3. John B. Shields, 1934
4. Jennie Spiva, 1932-1946
5. Grace Haley Thomasson, 1936-1945
6. Mary Shields Waits, 1895-1906
7. Mildred Warren, 1942-1945
8. Sympathy on death of Priscella Shields Haley, 1934
9. Sympathy on death of Maude McBryde Haley, 1938

## **BOX NUMBER 10**

### **Correspondence--General**

1. "A"
2. "B"
3. "C"
4. "D"
5. "E"

## **BOX NUMBER 11**

### **Correspondence--General**

1. "F"
2. "G"
3. "H"
4. Herbert Hoover, 1928
5. "I-J-K"
6. "L"
7. "M"

## **BOX NUMBER 12**

### **Correspondence--General**

1. "N-O"
2. "P-Q"
3. "R"
4. "S"
5. W. Angie Smith

## **BOX NUMBER 13**

### **Correspondence--General**

1. "T"
2. "U-V"
3. "W"
4. "X-Y-Z"
5. Miscellaneous? unknown
6. Diaries, memoirs, etc.,? Curtis B. Haley, 1888-1890, 1902-1905, 1909, 1933, 1935, 1940-
7. 1941, 1946
8. Diaries, memoirs, etc.,? James Bonner McBryde, n. d.

## **BOX NUMBER 14**

1. Estate papers—John Phillip Frank, 1944-1946
2. Estate papers—Priscella Shields Haley, 1934
3. Estate papers—Ernest Parker McBryde, 1927, 1931
4. Estate papers—Elizabeth Maude Haley Moore, 1943-1944
5. Eulogies—William MacLure
6. Eulogies—David E. Shields
7. (6a) Financial records—Lawrence M. Hirsig and Co., 1942-1946
8. Genealogical data—Branson-Shields
9. Genealogical data—Haley-Shields



10. Genealogical data—Richard P. McBryde (1857-1940)
11. Insurance records—physical exam—Curtis B. Haley, 1927
12. Invitations—marriage—Josephine McBryde Hirsig to Augustus Benjamin Groce, March 20, 1939
13. Invitations—Y.M.C.A.—“An Evening for Young People,” February 9, 1900
14. Invitations? miscellaneous
15. Land records—Deed of Trust—release—Chas. W. Hirsig to W.O. Hirsig, July 3, 1925
16. Land records—Installment Deed (copy)—Curtis B. Haley to F. A. & Louise Smith, 1941
17. Legal documents—Affidavit (copy)—Mrs. Jeanne L. Chappell, December 15, 1939
18. Legal documents? Affidavit (copy)—Curtis B. Haley? miscellaneous
19. Legal documents—Affidavit (copy)—James Coleman Wells, February 1, 1938
20. Legal documents—Agreement—Curtis B. Haley and George D. Ross, April 16, 1935
21. Legal documents—Agreement—Curtis B. Haley and E. L. Smith, July 1, 1941
22. Legal documents—Agreement—Haley Bros. And Wm. R. Montgomery, September 28, 1876
23. Legal documents—Agreement—Paul S. Haley to H. W. Ward, January 15, 1923
24. Legal documents—Bond—F. A. Gamble to Jodie Haley, March 9, 1895
25. Legal documents—Letter of Conveyance—Curtis B. Haley to Mrs. Carrie T. Bulla, March 18, 1932
26. Legal documents—Notice of Foreclosure Sale—James Ollie Williams and wife Elizabeth, 1935
27. Legal documents—Wills (copy)—William Grimson Hirsig, January 6, 1937
28. Liberty Bank and Trust Co.—Liquidation, 1928-1938
29. Liberty Hill—Tennessee and Missouri Methodism
30. Lists—properties—farm and other, 1940
31. Lists—stewards’—Curtis Haley
32. Lists—Y.M.C.A. members since January 1, 1902
33. McKendree Methodist Church—District Conference, 1938
34. McKendree Methodist Church—history
35. McKendree Methodist Church—minutes, resolutions, trust funds, etc., 1929-1941
36. McKendree Methodist Church—reports, 1929-1946

### **BOX NUMBER 15**

1. Notes—Curtis B. Haley—distribution of photographs
2. Obituaries—Curtis B. Haley (1872-1951)
3. Obituaries—John David Haley (1884-1904)
4. Obituaries—Mary Wheeler Flippen Haley (1878-1902)
5. Poetry—Brabson Haley, 1925
6. Post cards? pictorial
7. Programs—commencement exercises—Alabama Polytechnical Institute, June 14, 1899
8. Programs—commencement exercises—Geo. Peabody College for Teachers, 1931

9. Programs—commencement exercises—State Normal School, Jacksonville, AL, June 1, 1892
10. Programs—East Nashville Literary circle, 1902
11. Programs—Reunion—Class of 1892—State Normal School, Jacksonville, AL
12. Publications—bulletin—First Methodist Church, Morristown, TN, March 4, 1941
13. School records—Brabson Haley—Nashville Public Schools, 1922-1923
14. School records—Curtis B. Haley—State Normal School, Jacksonville, AL, 189\_\_
15. School records—Mary Haley—State Normal School, Jacksonville, AL, 1892-1893
16. Speeches/addresses—Curtis B. Haley
17. State Teachers College (Jacksonville, AL)—commencement and class reunion, 1932
18. State Teachers College (Jacksonville, AL)—correspondence, etc., 1927-1932
19. Taxes—Curtis B. Haley, 1943-1946
20. Tours—Holy Land, 1935
21. Tours? miscellaneous
22. Writings—Curtis B. Haley? miscellaneous

#### **BOX NUMBER 16 - Photographs**

1. Curtis B. Haley (3)
2. Curtis B. Haley and Ed Jackson, 1900 (1)
3. Miscellaneous—unknown (8)

#### **BOX NUMBER 17 - OVERSIZED**

1. Certificates—Boy Scouts of America—Curtis B. Haley
2. Commission—Delegate to Southern Sociological Congress—Curtis B. Haley, April 19, 1915
3. Diagram—Deck plan—“Conte Di Savoia”
4. Photographs—Founder and Pioneer of Methodism
5. Photograph—General Conference of Methodist Church